

ing distinctively to the Department of the Treasury, as was the Impost and Excise Bill which was necessary to the currying out of these financial measures, Jefferson's opposition to them was well known at the time, and was freely expressed in his writings, but they were not made subjects of Cabinet discussions, till January, 1791, the Bill for a United States Bank* came, up for the President's signature. Washington regarded it as of such general importance that he asked the opinion of every member of his Cabinet individually. Here occurred the first serious disagreement between Hamilton and Jefferson.

The Bill, in its conception, was Hamilton's. Knox joined in urging¹ the President to sign it. Jefferson and Randolph, on the other hand, pronounced unconstitutional even the charter upon which it was based. Though the President finally signed it, there was no change in his cordial relations with Jefferson. Indeed, this Bill has for us a greater significance than merely personal difference between heads of departments could give it. It marked the first clear division of the country into political parties.

Upon the personal relations of Hamilton and Jefferson, much misconception has prevailed; and this has been exaggerated by the extreme bitterness between their respective partisans, Jefferson's side is set forth in the diary begun by him in August, 1791, which is commonly known as the "Anas." This covers the entire period of his secretaryship, and contains much that is historically valuable, but the purpose that palpably dominates the whole is to keep a record of Hamilton's actions and intentions, and this often leads Jefferson into a recital of mere trivialities and gossip. Jefferson counted upon this diary to furnish campaign material for combatting what he always maintained to be Hamilton's monarchical designs upon the government. He held that Hamilton was the head and front of a revolutionary party—one which he claimed, on his arrival in New York City, was not to be lightly esteemed either in numbers or in influence. At first many of the entries in the "Anas" were written down

*See Bank, National, pp MS.